

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the September 21, 2006 Office Action and the January 19, 2007 Advisory Action. Claims 12 and 14 are in the application, both of which are independent. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants note that they have not yet received an acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority. In this regard, a certified copy of the foreign priority application was submitted in parent Application No. 09/988,873, on March 4, 2002. Acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority is respectfully requested.

Claim 13, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, was cancelled in the December 12, 2006 Amendment After Final Rejection.

Claims 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,312,906 (Cass). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claims 12 and 14, the probe array is reacted with a target substance which is previously labeled.

Cass is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

Claim 14 also recites, *inter alia*, (i) a labeling compound is coupled to each terminus of the plurality of probes, in combination with (ii) measuring an amount of the labeling compound directly bonded to the substrate at a predetermined matrix site on the surface of the substrate.

Cass also is not seen to disclose or suggest the above-discussed combination of features recited by Claim 14.

Cass describes that a fluorophore is attached to the nucleic acid (see Cass, col. 8, lines 63 to 67) and that a fluoro-quencher is linked to substrate surface (see Cass, col. 9, lines 58 to 63). However, the fluorophore and the fluoro-quencher are different materials. This can be contrasted to the present invention as recited by Claim 14, in which the labeling compound directly bonded to the substrate is the same labeling compound that is coupled to each terminus of the plurality of probes. This is evident from the claim language, which states “measuring an amount of the labeling compound directly bonded to the substrate at a predetermined matrix site on the surface of the substrate”.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If upon consideration of this Amendment, the Examiner still has concerns as to the patentability of the claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative to arrange an interview.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to
our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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